

Glossary

'Id al-Fitr (*i*-EED al FAHT-ehr, Festival of the Breaking of the Fast) Celebrates the end of Ramadan. It comes on the first day of the month, Shawwal, which follows Ramadan.

A.H. Anno Hegirae, in the year of the Hijra

Abangan (ah-BAHNG-ahn) Indigenous blend of native and Hindu-Buddhist beliefs combined with Islamic practices.

Abhidharma (uh-bee-DAHR-muh) Commentary or doctrine. Part of the Three Baskets, an early form of Buddhist texts

Abraham and Moses The greatest of the Prophet-Messengers. The phrase "peace be upon them" is often written after their names.

Aguinaldo, Emilio (ah-GHEE-nahl-doh ehm-eel-yoh) Revolutionary, nationalist leader. Led freedom movement against Spain in 1896 becoming president after independence in 1898. Retired after failure to withstand United States concession of the Philippines.

Airing the Classics Day Buddhist monasteries inspect their library collections. Rememberance of an ancient day when a boat carrying Buddhist scriptures, coming from India, was upset. Books then were set out to dry.

Albright, Madeleine K. United States' Secretary of State

Altan Khan Mongol military leader with ambitions to unite the Mongols and to emulate the career of Chinggis, invited the head of the rising Yellow Sect of Tibetan Buddhism to a summit. They formed an alliance that gave Altan legitimacy and religious sanction for his imperial pretensions and that provided the Buddhist sect with protection and patronage.

Amaterasu Omikami (ah-mah-tehr-ah-soo OOOH-mee-khah- mee)
Goddess of the sun in Shinto mythology. Ruling
emperors of Japan trace their ancestry back to this
deity.

Amitabha (ah-mee-TAH-bah) A Buddha who, as a Bodhisattva,
created a paradise state. Entrance into this heavenly
existence (Pure Land) is by means of Amitabha alone.

Anade (an-ah-deh) Rather than suffer a direct affront or
embarrassment, Burmese prefer to withdraw or avoid a
situation entirely. Rather than cause such a feeling in
another, a Burman may completely avoid an encounter.
Among good friends or family, expected behavior is that
a person will never bring up matters that would bring
shame or reduction of status to another.

Analects (AN ehlekts) The Lun Yu (luhn yoo--Discussed
Sayings) is known to most Western audiences as the
Analects (AN ehlekts) or recorded actions and saying
of Confucius. Most of the 20 Analects books describe
Confucius as he answers questions, discusses issues and
lives his beliefs.

Anatman The radical, difficult Buddhist view of the self
which sees it as a false, imaginary belief. There is no
independent, autonomous soul, self or identity.

Angkor Wat (AHN-kohr waht) Cambodian temple structure.
Built by Suryavarman II and completed in 1150, the
sandstone work is surrounded by a moat 2.5 miles long
and 650 feet wide.

Anglican Protestant Christian Church of England or those
churches in communion with the Church of England.

ANZAC Day National holiday in Australia and New Zealand,
taking its name from the initial letters, "Australia and
New Zealand Army Corps." Commemorates the landing of
the ANZAC troops on the Gallipoli Peninsula in European
Turkey on April 25, 1915 during World War I. Honors
those who have died in both World Wars, Korea and
Vietnam.

APEC Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Group

Aquino, Corazon (ah-KEE-noh, 1933-) After 1984 assassination of her husband, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, Corazon Aquino opposed her husband's rival, President Ferdinand Marcos. With election to the presidency in 1986 (-1992), Aquino successfully restored democracy.

Arhats (AHR-huht--worthy ones) 1,250 original members of the first Sangha, meeting in Rajagriha in northern India. Now the term refers to those who have achieved the final stage of enlightenment in Theravada Buddhism.

Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) The military ground forces of the South Vietnamese government (Republic of Vietnam) until its collapse in April 1975. ARVN originated in the Vietnamese military units raised by French authorities to defend the Associated State of Vietnam in the early 1950s. During the Second Indochina War, it grew to over 1 million men and women organized into 11 army divisions.

Artha (ahr-tah) Earning wealth, and economic/political activity, defines this first goal of Hindu social life.

ASEAN (AH she uhn) Association of Southeast Asian Nations formed in 1967

Ashoka (uh-SHOH-kuh) Emperor under whom Buddhist teaching and practice entered Sri Lanka (third century B.C.) and other parts of Southeast Asia. Ashoka ruled India from 272 - 236 B.C. He converted to Buddhism, advocated religious tolerance, common ethical observance, and ended violence with demonstrable social concern.

Ashrama (ASHH-ruh-muh) Hindu response to the question "When should I do what?" Contentedly following the ashrama (four stages--student, householder, forest dweller, homeless wanderer) of life is the way to liberation.

Ashura (ah-shoo-RA) Commemorates the martyrdom of Husayn (grandson of the prophet Muhammad) on the 10th of Muharram, A.H. 61 (C.E. [A.D.] 680)

Asia Challenge Unwritten policy of emphasizing the distinctives, differences, unifying Confucian heritage and superiority of Asian culture to that of the West.

Atman (AHT-muhn) The individual soul or life-force, eternal, indestructible...of the nature of pure being, consciousness and bliss...the essential nature of one's self.

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Aum Shinrikyo (oh-moo shin-ree-kyoh) "Aum" derives from the Sanskrit "om;" "shinrikyo" being translated as "supreme truth" This movement, founded by Chizuo Matsumoto, gained notoriety for the recent nerve gas attack in Tokyo. After becoming enlightened while in the Himalayas in 1986, Chizuo Matsumoto changed his name to Asahara. He established a meditative and ascetic practice based on Hindu and Buddhist thought, with Japanese and Western elements. Ashara encourages his followers to intensify their spiritual energy to counteract evil forces and avert catastrophes predicted for the end of the 1990s.

Aung San Suu Kyi (oung-sahn-soo-chee) Key opposition leader to Burmese military rule. Awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1991. Held under house arrest from 20 Jul 1989 to 10 July 1995.

Ayatollah (a-yat-ool-LAH) A mullah who achieves the highest level of leadership in the Shia community through extensive academic study

B.C.E. Before Common Era

Bao Dai (bow di, 1913-1997) Born Nguyen Vinh Thuy, ruled Vietnam as the last emperor of the Nguyen Dynasty from 1926-45. In a final attempt to control the Viet Minh (Ho Chi Minh's political party), Bao Dai allowed the French to reclaim hold on Vietnam by naming the country as a French protectorate.

Bataan Day Commemorates fall of Bataan in 1942 and 37,000 U.S. and Filipino soldiers captured. Thousands died in the infamous "death march."

Bhagavad Gita (BUH guh vuhd GEE tah) Great Epic describing poetic dialogue between Arjuna and his charioteer Krishna, is included in this extensive narrative.

Bhakti (BUHK-tee) The path of devotion, loyalty and love, is bhakti. It embodies the essential traits of heartfelt worship. Intense emotion, being mad after God, devotion which is intimate, passionate, intense and topsy-turvy characterizes the revolutionary encounters with the sacred.

Bhakti yoga (BUHK-tee) Popular devotional worship. Poet saints, while insisting on god's otherness, yet seek to adore him with every element of their being. Love, friendship, despair, and joy--emotional expressions of devotion--describe the feelings focused on god.

Bhikkhu A fully ordained Cambodian monk

Birthday of Goddess of Mercy Rememberance of Kuan Yin (gwahn-yin), bodhisattva of infinite compassion and mercy. Kuan Yin, depicting both masculine and feminine attributes, often finds acceptance among non-Buddhists in China.

Birthday of the Lotus Honors time when lotus plants around Beijing bloom on ponds and moats. Blooms signify that prayers to the Dragon Prince are answered with awaiting rains.

Boat people Refugees who fled Vietnam by sea after 1975. Many fell victim to pirate attacks in the Gulf of Thailand, drowned, or endured starvation and dehydration as a result of their escape in ill-equipped and undersized vessels.

Bodhi Tree (BOH-dee) Type of tree under which the historical Buddha received his first enlightenment.

Bodhicittas Thoughts of enlightenment which may result in a conversion like experience, leading to emancipation

Bodhidharma (boh-dee-DAHR-muh) A late fifth century patriarch who introduced Ch'an Buddhism into China

Bodhisattva (boh-dee-SAHT-vah) Those who have experienced enlightenment but who choose to remain in the world of rebirth. By this compassionate act, they deliver others from suffering.

Bonifacio, Andres (bohn-ee-FAH-shoh, 1863-1897) Filipino nationalist and founder of the secret society, Katipunan. Dedicated to freeing the Philippine Islands from the Spanish who had ruled since 1594. Once Spanish ousted, Bonifacio challenged Emilio Aguinaldo's election eventually resulting in his own execution.

Bonzes (BUHZ) Cambodian novice monks

Boxer Rebellion Late nineteenth century revolt against foreign presence in China. "Righteous and Harmonious Fists" convinced Dowager Empress to assist in expelling foreigners. Boxers killed missionaries and Christians in 1898. Twenty thousand international troops defeated boxers in Beijing in 1900. China forced to sign Boxer Protocol in 1901 punishing government officials, demanding monetary payments and forcing the empress to flee.

Boxing Day Australian and New Zealand holiday (26 Dec) which comes from the little earthenware boxes that servants, tradespeople, and others used to carry around on the day after Christmas to collect tips and year-end bonuses. Custom of distributing gifts (usually money) to public servants and employees continues, though often before Christmas rather than after. Boxes currently have nothing to do with the custom.

Brahma The creator deity of classical Hinduism

Brahman Members of the highest of Hinduism's four classes
brahman, (BRAH-muhn) The ultimate or absolute reality of
the universe, is like atman but expanded to a
universal, cosmic dimension.

Brahmins (BRAH mihns) The guardians of spiritual values,
the religious teachers and priests. A required twelve
years of study acquaints practitioners with the ritual
and practice of this class.

Buddha (BOO duh) Title meaning "enlightened, awakened
one," and refers to those who attain the enlightenment
goal of Buddhist religious life.

Bun Bang Fai (Boon buhng fi) Thai Rocket Festival, tied
to the rain ceremony predating Buddhism, intended to
bring good crops

Bunka-no-hi (BOON-kah-noh-HEE, Culture Day) Japanese Day
to honor contributions to the arts and sciences.
Originally celebrated as birthday of Emperor Meiji, who
ruled from 1868-1912

Burakumin (buh-rah-kuh-mihn) Descendants of feudal Japan
era "outcasts" who practiced "unclean" professions such
as butchering and undertaking.

Bushido (buh-SHEE-doh) The way of the warrior (samurai), a
term applied to the principles of loyalty and honor; a
code of stoic endurance, scorn of danger and death,
religious worship of country and sovereign, and proper
social relationships; an aesthetic life-style.

C.E. Common Era

Caliphs (KAY-lifs) Historic leaders who provided religious
and civil leadership in Muslim communities from A.D. 632
to the mid-thirteenth century. In practice, kings,
sultans, and the ulama took over caliph powers from the
ninth century onward.

Cao Dai (kow-DI) A self-styled, Vietnamese reformed Buddhist sect, founded and initially propagated by Ngo Van Chieu, a minor official who, in 1919, claimed to have had a series of revelations. An amalgam of different beliefs derived from Confucianism, Taoism, Christianity, and Western nineteenth-century romanticism, it claimed 1 million to 2 million adherents.

Ch'ommin (CHUN-mihn) Below the commoners, the "base people" or ch'ommin did what was considered vile or low-prestige work. They included servants and slaves in government offices and resthouses, jailkeepers and convicts, shamans, actors, female entertainers (kisaeng), professional mourners, shoemakers, executioners, and for a time at least, Buddhist monks and nuns.

Chador (chah-DUHR) The woman's shawl (head covering) used by many Middle Eastern women

Chakri Day (jhah-kree) Thai national holiday remembering Rama I's enthronement in 1782. Rama I founded the Chakri Dynasty, which continues--though without an absolute monarchy status--to this day.

Chang Tao-ling (chahng dou-ling, @ A.D. 142) An exorcist and founder of the Five Pecks of Rice movement, who established a mystical/religious healing school of thought. Today, most Taoist priests consider Chang Tao-ling as their main inspiration.

Chao (jou-oh) Guardian spirits in Thai folk practice, of which the most important is the *chao thi*, or guardian of the house compound.

Cheng (juhng) Designates the state of absolute quiet and inactivity, being sincere, authentic, real. One can be genuinely human without engaging in a flurry of activities (Taoist term).

Chi (jee) Based upon the cumulative effect of self-transformation, Chi, an originating power, an inward spring of activity...a critical point at which one's direction toward good or evil is set can be identified and used to further flourish the soul.

Chiang Kai-shek (chee-ahng ki shuhk, 1887-1975) Led rebellion against Manchu dynasty, later joining Sun Yat-sen's forces. Strongly anticommunist, he united all of China below the Great Wall. Initially gave little resistance to Japanese, though eventually allied with communists against Japanese. Eventually fled to Taiwan and formed government in exile there.

Chondogyo (CHUHN-doh-kyoh) Chondogyo, generally regarded as the first of Korea's "new religions." It is a synthesis of Confucian, Buddhist, shamanistic, Daoist, and Catholic influences.

Chu Hsi (joo shee, 1130-1200) Promoted School of Principle, and saw a pattern running through all material. By practicing asceticism or moral discipline, followers could ascertain this inner design.

Chuang-tzu (jwahng-dyuh, @369-286 B.C.) His name is the title for a classic Taoist text. Chuang-tzu is the second of the major founders of the Taoist movement. He advocates spontaneity, freedom and a natural-mystical approach as ways to deal with the chaos found within society. Discarding conventional values, freeing oneself from worldly attachments, and following a mystical, esoteric approach is Chuang Tzu's theme.

Chuch'e (choo-cheh) North Korean ideology of cultural distinctiveness, self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

Chulalongkorn (jhoo-laah-luhg-gohn, 1858-1910) Son of Thai king, Mongkut, who ruled Siam from the time he was ten years old until his death. Continued his father's attempts at preventing European colonization by promoting Siam as a worldly civilization. Goal was to modernize government and social systems. Was a strong advocate of traditional Thai culture and the fundamentals of Buddhism.

Chun-tzu (juhn-dyuh) This term refers to the mature, cultivated, humane person. It is the opposite of petty, mean-spirited individuals. A chun-tzu person aims to live by the highest of ethical standards. He/she seeks to answer, by action and attitude, the question "what can I do to accommodate others?"

Chungin (CHOONG-yihn) Below the yangban yet superior to the commoners were the chungin, a small group of technical and administrative officials. They included astronomers, physicians, interpreters, and professional military officers, as well as artists.

Ci Xi (tsee shee, 1835-1908) Dowager (DOW-ah-jahr) Empress, one of most powerful women in Chinese history. Ruled in stead of her emperor husband at his death in 1856 in format "behind the screen" of her young son, Tong Zhi.

Clear and Bright Remembrance Second most important Chinese festival which involves visiting ancestral tombs. Family members groom and conserve burial sites, eat together and offer money/gifts to departed ancestors.

Comfort women An estimated 200,000 Korean, Philippine, Chinese, Indonesian, Burmese, Dutch and Japanese women forced to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during 1932-1945.

Commentary Comments or explanations of scripture. Usually scholars of the texts provide detailed analysis and application in their explanations.

Compassion To demonstrate compassion--love, charity, kindness, tolerance and other such noble qualities--follows the Bodhisattva example of someone who renounces entry into Nirvana in order to help the living obtain release from suffering, rebirth and death

Complementary roles Traditional outlook which sees man as protector, and women enjoying the fruits of this guardianship in the security, protection, and respect given them in the home.

Concentration (Samadhi, 'suh-MAH-dee') Threefold Training classification grouping together cultivation of meditative calm and single-minded focus, thus categorizing Right Effort, Right Mindfulness and Right Concentration

Creative generalizations Concepts--tempered with care and refinement, always subject to modification and open to change--which enable us to make careful statements. When kept dynamic, flexible and tentative, this conceptual format enables us to make intelligible statements about others.

Cultural Revolution Political movement sparked by Jian Qing (jee-ahng cheeng) wife of Mao Zedong (mow dsuh-dohng). Movement attempted to abolish mental/manual labor distinctions. Academics went to farms, ancient objects of art were destroyed along with buildings and temples, scholars were sent to military and reform schools. The earthquake of 1976, followed by Mao Zedong's death effectively ended the revolution, and led to Jiang Qing's arrest.

Cultural sensitivity Possession of attitudes and knowledge which enables one to be aware of and interact with differing ethnic, racial and national groups

Culture That which guides people in their thinking, acting and feeling. Language, values, customary behaviors; ideas, beliefs and patterns of thinking; these attributes describe social characteristics of a people. The total way of life of a group--passed on from generation to generation

Culture shock The disorientation and upset which often accompany traveling to a new country or situation. Emotions vary including euphoria, distress, resentment, hostility, rebellion, and negativity.

Dak To (dock tou) Site of especially hard fighting in 1967. If the battle of the Ia Drang exemplified airmobility in all its versatility, the battle of Dak To, with the arduous ascent of Hill 875, epitomized infantry combat at its most basic and crushing effect of supporting air power.

Dalai Lama In the sixteenth century, Mongolian military head Altan gave the Tibetan leader the title of Dalai Lama (Ocean Lama), which his successors still hold. Altan died soon after, but in the next century the Yellow Sect spread throughout Mongolia, aided in part by the efforts of contending Mongol aristocrats to win religious sanction and mass support for their ultimately unsuccessful efforts to unite all Mongols in a single state. Lama comes from a Tibetan title *bla-ma*, meaning "the revered one". Now, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism who fled to India in 1959

Datu (dah-too) Moro communal leaders who measured power not by their holdings in landed wealth but by the numbers of their followers. In return for tribute and labor, the *datu* provided aid in emergencies and advocacy in disputes with followers of another chief.

Day of Hajj (ahl-HAHJ, Day of Arafat) Commemorates the concluding revelation to the Prophet at Mt. Arafat, a mountain 18 kilometers east of Mecca.

Dharma (DHAR-muh) Teaching--the proper course of conduct, norm, ultimate principles, of Buddhism.

Dharma (DAHR-muh) In Hindu thought, what people ought to do--their established duty--becomes the sustaining, underlying goal and guide for ordinary people. Dharma also focuses on the model of how society should be organized.

Dien Bien Phu French garrison, thought impregnable by the French, which fell after a seige, in 1954. This victory demonstrated the tenacity of the Viet Minh forces.

Divine Decree Belief that everything is decided by God and in some sense comes from Him

Doan Ngu (dwan new) Vietnamese celebration marking the Summer Solstice. Offerings made to spirits, ghosts and God of Death to protect against epidemics. Burnings of human figures provide souls to staff the army of the God of Death.

Dragon Boat Celebration Event recalling when Chu'u Yuan (328-298 B.C.), a Chinese poet and statesman, drowned himself in the river.

Edo (eh-DOH) Original name for Tokyo (from 1180-1868) which means "river gate". Edo became Japan's official capital around 1600 when the Tokugawa Shogunate located there.

Emerald Buddha Statue, in Bangkok, of the sitting Buddha is considered a national symbol. Believed to date back to the first century, though was not found until 1436 in Northern Thailand. In 1779, Rama I placed the Emerald Buddha in its current location

Ethnocentrism Seeing other people's way of life only through one's own "glasses," regarding your own culture as superior in all ways, which leads to unhealthy, proud attitudes, arrogant self-righteousness, and feelings of haughtiness which can destroy personal relationships

Extremists Fanatics who use their religion for political ends.

Face Perceptions that others within your social group have of you

Feast of Excited Insects Marks transition from Chinese winter to spring, the day when the "dragon raises his head," bringing renewed life. Rituals focus on appeasement of insects and renewing the earth's fertility

Feng-shui (FUHNG-shway) The system of divination whereby seers select potential sites for graves, homes or temples, is an ancient method of harmonizing humans with universal powers, bringing about good or bad fortunes to those who wish to build. A special compass (lo-p'an [luhaw-pahn]) is used to determine the proper location of a new structure.

Filial piety Relations guiding children with their parents and past generations. Often elaborate and showing great respect for elders, both living and departed, this tradition is basic to most East Asian peoples.

Five Precepts Standards of ethical conduct which encompass the minimum moral obligations of a lay Buddhist. The Five Precepts ([1] not to destroy life, [2] not to steal, [3] not to commit adultery, [4] not to tell lies, [5] not to take intoxicating drinks) are not commandments as such, but rules of training, and ideals to live up to.

Five relationships Concept popularized by Mencius. The five relationships are--father-son, ruler-minister, husband-wife, old-young, friend-friend.

Forbidden City Ancient Imperial Palace, in center of Beijing, used by Ming and Qing Dynasties. Occupies 250 acres, 9000 rooms, a 170 foot wide moat and 33 foot high wall. Currently a museum and tourist attraction.

Four Noble Truths Four Holy or Noble Truths enable humankind to find peace with themselves and the world. (1) There is suffering; (2) Desire is the cause of suffering; (3) Humankind can bring an end to suffering; (4) The Noble Eightfold Path is the way to achieve Nirvana and end suffering.

Four sights When a young man, Buddha took a trip outside his father's palace. On this visit, he saw the four sights--an old man, a sick man, a corpse and a wandering ascetic--which prompted Gautama to retire from the world, undergo the great struggle, and attain enlightenment.

Freeing of Insects Traditional Japanese rural festival. Insects purchased on 28 May, kept in cages, and make songs during the summer months, are freed. Occurs in public parks, temples or shrines.

Fundamentalism Emotive label, often categorizing those who would return to the basic, traditional, fundamental elements of their belief or practice. Some fundamentalists can be nonviolent, conservative individuals who seek peaceful change, being true believers of the intent and practice of Scripture. Others are extremists who advocate violent change.

Fundamentalist positions of Islamic women Advocates who apply strict interpretations of the Qur'an and sharia to women. Many bar women from working outside the home or attending higher educational institutions.

Gang of Four Individuals who led the Cultural Revolution. Jiang Qing (Mao's wife); Wang Hongwen (whang hohng-wuhn); Zhang Chunqiao (jahng choo-chee-ow); and Yao Wenyan (Yow wuhn-yoo-ahn). All arrested after Mao's death in 1976.

Gestapu Affair (ges-tah-POO) Indonesian military coup happening on September 1965. Blame was placed on Communists. As a result, Indonesian citizens must align themselves with a religious group.

Ghost Festival Taoist, Buddhist, Chinese festival to kuei (gway), hungry ghosts. These souls of the restless must be appeased through offerings of food and prayers.

Giap, Vo Nguyen (ZAP vo new-win, 1911-) Organized the Viet Minh as commander-in-chief. Master of guerrilla warfare who fought the Japanese during World War II, ended French colonization in Vietnam, and defeated United States forces to unify his nation at the end of the Vietnam War in 1976. Giap served as deputy prime minister and minister of defense until his retirement in 1982.

Goma Fire rituals where deities come closer to adherents in Japanese Buddhist thought and practice.

Good Life The Taoist ideal, the good life, is a community living a natural, harmonious, simple life without the pressures of war and competition. "Being" not "having" becomes the enlightened style of life.

Goryo (goh-ryoh) In Japanese Buddhist practice, evil instilling spirits of the dead who sometimes cause natural disasters or inflict illness and death upon the living.

Great Epics 300 B.C. - A.D. 300 The Mahabharata (mah hah BAH rah tah) is a grand narrative of stories involving warriors and kings. The Baghavat Gita and Ramayana also are important epics.

Greater Jihad (ji-HAD) The Greater Jihad (al-jihad al-akbar) refers to the personal struggle of the heart, where the believer strives to overcome personal temptations and the carnal self. This inner struggle is Jihad's highest form. During this Jihad, Muslims strive to internalize the Islamic message through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Guanxi (gwahn-shyee) Importance of developing a relationship or "connection" to procure goods and services

Gulf of Tonkin Resolution Declaration by congress giving the president power to deter aggression when hostile actions were committed against U.S. forces. Established after purported North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. Navy personnel in the Gulf of Tonkin.

Guru (G00-roo) Personal Tantric guide who serves as a mentor and leader to enlightenment

Gyana yoga (jnana/gnana/yana) The path of knowledge reserved for a select few. It requires a rare combination of rationality and spirituality. Gyana yoga focuses upon interior knowledge and meditation.

Hadith (hah DEETH) Reports of what Muhammad, or his companions, said and did. Next to the Qur'an, hadith is the most important source of Muslim instruction.

Hajj (al-HAHJ--pilgrimage) At least once in a lifetime, preferably during the twelfth month of the calendar, a Muslim takes a trip to Mecca. No one goes on Hajj without first ensuring that family members are provided for in their absence.

Hamburger Hill On 11 May 1969, a battalion of the 101st Airborne Division climbing Hill 937 found the 29th North Vietnamese Regiment waiting for it. The struggle for "Hamburger Hill" raged for 10 days and became one of the war's fiercest and most controversial battles.

Han-lin Academy (hahn-leen) Highest ranking academy of Imperial China, established by Emperor Hsuan Tsung (hsoo-ahn tsoong, 712-56) of the Tang Dynasty. Exclusive entrance requirements. Most graduates worked for the emperor. Active until 1911 when overthrown by the Qing Dynasty.

Hanami (Hah-nah-MEE) Japanese appreciation of cherry blossoms

Hanbalite (HAHN-buh-leyet) Imam Hanbal (d. 855), from Baghdad, followed a strict interpretation of the Sharia. Strong in present day Arabia, especially Saudi Arabia, Hanbal thought influenced the revivalist ibn Abd al-Wahhab.

Higan (HEE-gahn) Buddhist observance looking to "the other shore" (higan). Japanese celebrates move from world of suffering to world of enlightenment. Adherents remember dead, visit and clean graves, recites texts and prayers.

Hijab (HEHZH-yab) The complete head and body covering style of dress employed by many Middle Eastern women

Hijra (HIJ-ruh) Migration of the prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Medina (A.D. 622) This date begins the Islamic calendar.

Hinayana (hin-ah-YAH-nah, lesser) A pejorative term, sometimes describing Theravada. Southeast Asia--specifically the countries of Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Kampuchea--and Sri Lanka are home to this practice.

Hiroshima (HEE-roo-shee-mah) Japanese city located on the southwestern island of Honshu. Was a strategic military site until its near destruction by the first atomic bomb on August 6, 1945.

Ho Chi Minh (HOH CHEE MIHN, 1969) "Father of his country," founding the Communist Party in Vietnam after co-founding the same in France twenty years prior.

Ho Chi Minh Trail An intricate network of jungle trails, paths, and roads leading from the panhandle of northern Vietnam through Laos and Cambodia into the border provinces of southern Vietnam. At the height of the Second Indochina War, it was a major resupply artery for Hanoi's armed forces operating in South Vietnam.

Hoa (WHA) Han Chinese, the single largest ethnic group in Vietnam.

Hoa Hao [WHA HOW], A reformed Vietnamese Theravada Buddhist sect which preserved a distinctive Buddhist coloration. Based mostly in the southernmost areas of the delta, it stressed individual prayer, simplicity, and social justice over icon veneration or elaborate ceremonies.

Hsiao (sheeu, filial piety) Term describing the honor and reverence children show to both living and dead parents. Hsiao also defines the responsibility of elders to produce sons to carry on their family line.

Huang He (hoo-ahng huh) Cradle of Chinese civilization, the "Yellow River Valley". Also called "China's sorrow" because of its constant flooding and change of course.

Hui (hway) Muslim ethnic Chinese minority.

Hui-ssu (hway-suh) A northern Chinese Buddhist monk [515-577] known for his meditation abilities.

Hungry Ghost Festival Remembrance of souls of dead through grave visitation. Known as Yue Lan, Vu Lan Day, Day of the Dead, Trung Nguyen (chung new-when). Second most important festival after Tet.

Ia Drang (EE-ah drang) Site of the first major U.S. forces airmobile operation in South Vietnam. Took place in 1965 in the Ia Drang Valley.

Id al-Adha (i-EED ahl-OOHD-hah, Festival of Sacrifice) The concluding act of pilgrimage. Muslims offer sheep, goats, and camels in a pattern after Abraham's offering of his son Ismail to God. The poor and needy receive the meat.

Imam (i-MAHM) Leads prayers for the faithful. Also, these leaders may derive authority from their abilities in religious scholarship.

Islam (is-LAHM) Obedience or peace through submission to the will of God.

Jati The class within a class. Jati becomes the decisive factor in Hindu societal relations. Hundreds to thousands of these classes within the four major varnas divide society.

Jen (ruhn) This basic virtue, as outlined in the Analects, signifies benevolence, humaneness and human-heartedness. Cultivating courtesy and unselfishness promotes the dignity of human life wherever it appears. Public displays focus upon diligence, steadfastness, and a magnanimity of heart which pursues a mission, that of redeeming the world through human effort.

Jibril (jib-REEL) (Gabriel), most important angel in Islam. Delivered the Qur'an

Jihad (ji-HAD) Sometimes seen as a sixth foundational element of Islam, Western media stereotypes it as "holy war." A more accurate portrayal sees jihad as an exertion or struggle in achieving the ways of God. It (jihad) describes an attentiveness against distractions from God, exertion to do His will within ourselves, and reestablishing order in Islamic society and the world at large.

Jinns Invisible beings who possess extraordinary powers, being capable of either good or evil

Jishu (jee-shoo) Japanese Buddhist practice which followed Ippen's thought (eep-pen--1239-1289). Ippen received a revelation in 1274. Amulets (charms used to ward off evil spirits) established a linkage between believers and Buddha, guaranteeing salvation to the individual. An ascetic monastic community and lay followers developed.

Jodo Shinshu (joh-doh shin-shoo) True Pure Land trend of thought founded by Shinran (shin-rahn--1173-1262.) The monk Shinran married, establishing a hereditary structure to Jodo Shinshu leadership. He stressed reliance upon the power of Amida Buddha as the salvation source, with faith being a gift of Amida. Faith alone effected salvation.

Jodoshu (joh-doh-shoo) Pure Land Japanese school or Buddhist practice which followed the teachings of Honeen (Hoh-nen--1133-1212.)

K'ung Fu-Tzu Leadership of the Confucian school centers around its foremost teacher, K'ung Fu-Tzu (kuhng fo-dzuh, 551-479 B.C.

Kachin Ethnic group located in Northeast Burma, living under a system called Gumm-tsa. A chief owns all the land his people pay tribute. The Kachin have never been subjugated by any of the local empires. They remain a part of Burma in their independent fashion of constant rebellion and antigovernment politics.

Kakure Kirishitan (kah-koo-ray kee-ree-shi-tahn) These Japanese Christians trace their heritage to believers remaining in Japan after Tokugawa persecutions in the seventeenth century. Until the mid-nineteenth century, they often practiced their faith secretly.

Kali (KAHL lee) Goddess who is eerie, awesome, terrifying, wild, frantic and out of control. She epitomizes the undomesticated, fearful aspects of the divine.

Kali Yuga (KAH-lee YOO-gah) Age in which we presently live, wherein a steady decline takes place. Time is running down. "Every day, in every way," we do not get "better and better." Our children will not necessarily have a better life than the one we enjoy. Rather, we are all involved in the downward spiral of time.

Kalpa (KAL-pah) One cycle of Hindu time, beginning with creation to dissolution (day of Brahma), lasts 4,320,000 years. These cycles continue on for the life of Brahma (100 years of 360 Brahma days and nights). The process then, with variations, repeats itself.

Kama (KAH-muh), The pursuit of sensual pleasures, especially those of romantic ecstasy, describes the second goal of Hindu social life. Cultivating aesthetic and sensual appetites becomes the objective.

Kami Schools of thought (kah-mee--mythological, natural or human figures worshipped within Shinto thought [similar to Greek deities]; those sacred, pure and powerful forces in a destructive as well as creative sense) which focuses on this world, often being identified with specific natural sights.

Kannon (kahn-nohn) The Japanese Buddhist Bodhisattva who exercises the profoundest compassion

Karen Collective of ethnic groups living in South and Eastern parts of Burma. Always pro-British with over 30% converting to Christianity causing a strong distrust between Burmese and Karen. Resisted annexation to Burma and today still protest.

Karma (KAHR-muh) Action/intention/deed. Forms the basis for the law of karma--every action, every deed, has a result--both in the short term and over the long haul.

Karma yoga The liberation path of works or deeds, which is the practice of many Hindus

Kartini Day (KAHR-tee-nee, 21 April) National Indonesian holiday commemorating the 1879 birth of Raden Ajeng Kartini, a national hero and pioneer in the emancipation of women.

Kathina Festival Observance which marks the end of the monsoon rain retreats. The Sangha receives new robes and wishing trees from village members on this occasion.

Keiro-no-hi (KAY-ee-ROOOH-noh-HEE) National holiday honoring the elderly.

Khmer (kah-mehr) Ethnic group in Thailand and found throughout parts of Southeast Asia. Two groups of Khmer are distinguished in Thailand--long-time inhabitants more recent arrivals.

Khmer Rouge (kah-mehr roozh) The name given to the Cambodian Communists by Prince Norodom Sihanouk in the 1960s...Between 1975 and 1978, it denoted the Democratic Kampuchean (or Khmer) Communist Party. After being driven from Phnom Penh by the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia in Dec 1978, the Khmer Rouge went back to guerrilla warfare and joined forces with two noncommunist insurgent movements to form the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea.

Kim Il Sung Many if not most observers of North Korea would agree that the country's official religion is the cult of Kim Il Sung. North Korean Christians attending overseas conferences claim that there is no contradiction between Christian beliefs and the veneration of the "great leader" or his secular church's philosophy.

Kim Jong Il Son of Kim Il Sung, now preeminent ruler of North Korea.

King Sejong (SAY-jong) Han'gul was invented by scholars at the court of King Sejong (1418-50), not solely to promote literacy among the common people as is sometimes claimed, but also...to assist in studies of Chinese historical phonology.

Kisaeng (KEY-sahng) Female Korean entertainers. Girls were originally chosen from the lower classes to train for the life of a courtesan in a wealthy household. Kisaeng women were once admired for their poetry composition and devotion to literary and musical arts though the occupation was never considered respectable. Today, kisaeng women are prostitutes, sanctioned by the government and used to promote tourism.

Koans Short, pithy sayings, poems and riddles which become means to enlightenment. Dr. D.T. Suzuki (1870-1966) did much to spread Zen teachings in the West.

Kodomo-no-Hi (koh-doh-moh-NOH-hee) National holiday for boys and girls. Family picnics occur, households with boys fly streamers with carp fish. Carp represent strength, courage and determination as they swim upstream.

Kojiki (koh-jee-kee) The "Record of Ancient Matters," the oldest historical record of Japan. Covers the period from the age of gods (beginning of time) to the rule of Empress Suiko (593-628). First section is a holy book in Shinto and includes the myths of how the gods founded Japan.

Koryo Dynasty (KOHR-ee-ah, 918-1392) Founded by Wang Kon who overthrew what remained of the Silla Dynasty (c.350-935).

Kotoage (koh-toh-ah-gay) Act of bold speech in presence of kami, seeking to invoke the magical power of words, an early Shinto practice

Kotodama (koh-toh-dah-mah) Belief, from ancient Japanese times, that beautiful words, correctly intoned, in and of themselves contained spiritual power.

Krishna (KRISH nah) God who, with his symbolic flute, portrays the relationship of the worshiper with the holy as a riotous, festive, rollicking affair, filled with abandon, frenzy, and intoxicated delight. The universe and self are filled with bliss.

Ksatriyas (KSHAT ree ahs) Rulers and warriors who oversee the land or kingdom. Eight years of study are necessary for members.

Kublai Khan (koo-bla KAHN) Genghis Khan's (gen-guhs-KAHN) grandson who brought with him many Persian Muslims as part of his conquering force during the establishment of the Mongol Yuan dynasty of northern China (1279-1368).

Kuei (gway) Hungry ghosts. These harmful spirits--souls which are restless due to violent and untimely deaths, ill placed burial sites or neglect by descendants--must be appeased. The Ghost Festival fulfills this function.

Kukai (KOO-kah-ee, 774-835) "Father of Japanese culture", also known as Kobo Daishi. Founded the Shingon or "True Word" school of Buddhism. Also remembered as a traveler, poet, artist, and the compiler of the first Japanese dictionary.

Kung te Cheng (b. 1920) Direct descendant of Confucius and resident of Taiwan, who is a leading spokesperson for Confucian values

Kurozumikyo (ku-ro-zu-mee-kyor) Japanese new religion based upon founder, Kurozumi, who in 1814 prayed to the sun deity Amaterasu after experiencing personal illness and the death of his parents. Kurozumi experienced a revelation that the human and divine were one. Amaterasu became the guiding spirit of the universe.

Kwangju Incident Prodemocracy demonstration on 18 May 1980. After right-wing dictator Park Chung Hee was assassinated 1979, political unrest ensued. American and Korean troops were called to the city of Kwangju to help restore order. Demonstrators and leaders of the government opposition were arrested, tortured, and killed.

Kyodan, Nihon Kirisuto (kyoh-dahn, nee-hon kee-ree-soo-toh) Japan Christian Church. This united group of most Protestant denominations is the largest such association in Japan. It was established during WW II.

Lantern Festival Event marking the end of the Lunar New Year's celebration where lanterns are viewed and displayed.

Lao Tzu (lou-dyuh) The purported author of Tao-te ching (dou-duh jing, The Book of The Way and Its Power), the first book of Taoist thought. Called the "Patriarch of Taoism," the "Old Boy, Old Fellow," and the "Grand Old Master," his thought stressed yielding to the way of nature rather than being bound by society and its formal/informal rules.

Laylat al-Qadr (LAHY-let ahl-KAHD-ehr, Night of Power) This event came to the Prophet Muhammad in 610 C.E. (A.D.), when he was forty years old. It commemorates the first revelation of the Qur'an.

Lesser Jihad The Lesser Jihad (al-jihad al-asghar) is the outward struggle of Muslims against those attacking the faith and requires using the tongue, hands, or sword. Only in the last instance, however, do Muslims engage in mortal combat by taking up arms against Islam's enemies.

Li (lee--ritual, mores, ceremony) Li finds its origin in religious ceremony and rite. Its broader meaning describes the way things are done. Attitude becomes as important as correct conduct. Manners, an order to behavior and family relations, honoring elders, and the concept of the golden mean, all describe Li.

Liberation Day (15 August) Remembrance of surrender of Japan to the Allies in 1945, liberating Korea from Japan's thirty-five-year occupation. Commemorates also the formal proclamation of the Republic of Korea in 1948.

Lineage The tracing of the ancestral line from living members back many generations to one common ancestor

Long March March of over 6,000 miles by Communist Red Army from 1934-35. Attacked during the entire journey, the initial force of 90,000 men and women had 8,000 survivors at journey's end.

Lunar calendar Using the moon to calculate the days marking a given calendar year

Lunar New Year Most important Chinese religious year celebration, held the second new moon after the winter solstice. Feasts honor various deities, ancestors and restless spirits.

Magha Puja (mah-KAH boo-chah) Buddhist celebration of ordination of 1,250 monks in Rajagrha, India by Gautama Buddha. Temple sermons, chants, and merit-making activities take place on this day

Mahasiddhas (mah-hah-SI-dah) Unconventional, enlightened, wandering about, compassionate masters who serve as Tantric gurus

Mahayana (mah-hah-YAH-nah) Means the 'great vehicle or course,' and is associated with Tibet, Mongolia, China, Korea, Japan and Vietnam. Also called northern Buddhism, it includes the Pure Land, Ch'an (chahn [Zen]) and Tantra (TUHN-truh) trends of thought.

Mahikari (ma-hi-KA-ree) Okada Kotama founded this new Japanese religion in 1959. A new divinity, SU, revealed to Okada that Japan was the center of an originally benevolent universe. This world became polluted. Through Okada's offerings, SU returned to restore the universe. Spirit possession--either by unhappy ancestral or animal spirits--is the cause of world problems. To banish evil spirits, adherents seek SU's power--which can be expressed in blessed charms.

Man'yoshu (mahn-yoh-shoo--'Collection of Ten Thousand Leaves') An early poetic Japanese collection of over forty-five hundred verses.

Manchu Minority ethnic group located in China's northeast. Once herders and hunters, conquered China in the seventeenth century. They were gradually assimilated and are now found in all trades across the northeast, with little remaining of their ancient customs or language.

Mandalas (MAHN-duh-luhs) Pictures of the physical and spiritual world in concrete terms.

Mantras (MAHN-truhs) Meditational devices, often a sequence of sounds made powerful by a spiritual leader (guru), the most famous being "OM."

Mao Zedong (mow dsuh-dohng, 1893-1976) Founder of People's Republic of China. Led the Long March, led China for 27 years, and launched political and economic redistribution of land movements, revolutionizing Chinese society. Opened closer ties with the West in meeting with President Nixon in Beijing in 1972.

Maori (MAH-oh-ree) Name meaning "normal", first used by New Zealand's indigenous people to differentiate themselves from the Europeans. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, European settlers decimated the Maori population. War, disease, and land confiscation were all contributing factors.

Mappo (mahp-poh) Era of degeneration, term describing this present age in Japanese Buddhism.

Marabouts (MAHR-eh-boots) "Friends of God" or popular saints. Locals often see these holy individuals as possessing spiritual/mystical powers and seek out their prayers and blessings. Though condemned in some orthodox Islamic circles, pilgrimages to these living saints or visits to the tombs of their dead still occur.

Marcos, Ferdinand [Edralin] (ed-rah1-LEEN, 1917-1989) President of the Philippines from 1965-1986. Administration held in power by military destruction of opposition. Marcos justified his rule due to the insurgence of a Communist threat.

Martyrs Those who die for their faith

Matsu Festival Honors Matsu ("granny"), a goddess who studied Buddhist and Taoist scriptures. Matsu is protectress of China's seamen, especially those in Taiwan straits

Matteo Ricci (1521-1610) Jesuit missionary who in 1601 was allowed to live in Beijing

Mawlid al-Nabi (MOW-lid oon-NA-bee, Birthday of the Prophet) The anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad. For many Muslims, this day ranks third in importance, after 'Id al-Fitr and Id al-Adha.

Meiji Restoration (meh-ee-jee) Period of reform and unification in Japan begun by the signing of the Harris Treaty in 1858 by the Tokugawa Shogunate. Treaty opened Japanese ports to foreigners. A series of protests and political acts ensued which caused an end to the Shogunate and 800 years of militaristic rule.

Mencius (MEN-shee-uhs, 372-289 B.C.) Systematizer of Confucius's teaching. Mencius believed in the innate goodness of all people.

Meng Tzu (mung dzuh) Written by Mencius (MEN shee ahs), these books systematized Confucian teaching, advocating study of the Classics, practicing moral disciplines and developing natural ying/yang energies.

Merit Burmans believe that the best way to ensure a better future life is to give as generously as possible to Buddhism rather than to secular charities or causes. Buddhist giving is noted in golden books kept by heavenly beings.

MFN Most Favored Nation.

Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration of the harvest moon, centered on popular deity of Ch'ang O. People go to the countryside, eat moon shaped cakes and enjoy the holiday spirit.

Militant fundamentalists Those who see their religion as bringing about revolutionary change in their societies-- often through violent means. Also called fanatical extremists, radicals, or renegades.

Minjung (mihn-chung) During the 1980s, the concept of minjung (the masses) became prominent in the thinking and rhetoric of radical students, militant labor unionists, activists identified with the Christian churches, and progressive but generally non-Marxist intellectuals.

Misa de Gallo (mee-sah day gahl-yoh) Start of the Philippine Christmas season, blending Christian and ancient harvest thanksgiving rites. Dawn of 16 Dec (cock's crow), church bells ring, parades begin, and people awaken for the Cock's Mass. After midnight Mass on 24 Dec., people celebrate with rice cakes and ginger tea/cocoa.

Missing-in-action (MIA) United States military term for servicemen who remained unaccounted for at the end of the Second Indochina War. In the 1980s, rumors persisted that some MIAs were still alive and had been detained involuntarily in Vietnam after the war.

Modernization Using the scientific and technological methods of the contemporary world to bring about change in society. Within Muslim circles, many accept modernization but reject the Western values which often accompany such change.

Moksha (MOHK shah) Though Hindu thought most often describes moksha in terms of what it is not, the terms "liberation," "full being," "consciousness," "bliss" gives some sense of its meaning.

Mon (mahn) Thai ethnic group, perhaps the first Theravada Buddhists in Southeast Asia, and the founders in the seventh century of the kingdom which greatly influenced the development of Thai culture.

Mongkut (mohng-koot, 1804-1868) Ruler of Thailand, then known as Siam, who spent 27 years prior to his accession traveling the world as a Buddhist monk. Formed treaties with the United States and Great Britain. Dramatized in the musical *The King and I*.

Mongol Empire achieving greatest power under Gheghis Khan (1167-1227). Controlled largest empire in history—China, Russia, Turkey and Iran. Kublai Khan established Yuan Dynasty of China in 1260. Only when Manchu's defeated the Mongols were they completely subdued.

Monism Hindu thought is monistic. That is, it sees reality as consisting of only one basic substance, principle or reality. Whereas dualistic world views see society in good/evil, self/other, I/world, terms, Hindu thought identifies a single notion which ties all reality together.

Monochronic time Having a tendency to do only one thing at a time. Describes the approach to time held by many Americans

Montagnards (mon-tahn-YAHRD) Minorities that live in the mountainous regions of Vietnam. The Vietnamese also disparagingly call them "moi," meaning savage.

Morality (Sila) Classification of the Threefold Training which

Moros (mohr-ohs) Philippine Muslims, about 5 percent of the total population. Undifferentiated racially from other Filipinos yet remain outside the mainstream of national life, set apart by their religion and way of life.

Morrison, Robert Called the first Protestant missionary, entered China in 1807. Hudson Taylor founded the China Inland Mission in 1865.

Mu-Kyokai (moo-kyoh-kai--no-church) Popular among college students and intellectuals, this Japanese Christian movement began around the turn of the century. It rejects denominations and institutions, focusing instead on Bible studies, personal experience and hard work. Mu-Kyokai advocates a distinct Japanese Christianity, free from foreign structures.

Mudra (MOOD-rah) Symbolic hand gestures, assisting devotees to achieve closeness with deities.

Muezzin (moo-uh-TH-thin) The crier who calls worshippers to prayer

Mufti (MUF-tee) Scholars in Islamic law

Mujahidun (moo-ja-hid-OON) Present day activists who seek to revive Islamic society

Muhammad (moo-HAM-mad) The last of the Islamic prophets. Founder of the Muslim faith and most revered messenger of God.

Mullahs (MUL-luhs) Local Shi'ite men of religion

Muslim (MOOS-lim) Obedient one (to the will of God)...one who submits

My Lai (mee li) In the hamlet of My Lai, elements of the Americal Division killed about two hundred civilians in the spring of 1968. Although only one member of the division was tried and found guilty of war crimes, the repercussions of the atrocity were felt throughout the army.

Naadam A Mongolian term referring both to celebrations honoring the Mongolian people's freedom. History goes back to the thirteenth century when Marco Polo described a gathering of 10,000 white horses. Mongolian chieftains competed in horse racing, archery, and wrestling; the "three manly games" for a Mongolian.

Namu amida butsu (nem-boo-tsoo) Chant of praise and homage to Amitabha Buddha. Practitioners can attain rebirth in the land of bliss by repeating this phrase near the hour of death.

Nembutsu (nem-boo-tsoo) Reciting the name of the Amitabha Buddha

Nembutsu odori (oh-doh-ree) Joyful dance while chanting the nembutsu

Neo-Confucian movement Program developed in response to Buddhism, becoming dominant in East Asia from the twelfth to early twentieth century. It honed and perfected early Confucian thought.

Ngo Dinh Diem (NOH DEEN DYEM, 1901-1963) In 1954, Diem staged an election which forced Emperor Bao Dai to abdicate with himself becoming first president of South Vietnam. Anticommunist, anti-French, and against unification with North Vietnam. Formed a loose alliance with the United States to contain the Communist north. Severely abused power by placing family members in high ranking positions, and actively promoting Catholicism.

NGO: Non-governmental Organization, dedicated primarily to humanitarian causes within a given country.

Nichiren (nee-chee-ren--1222-1282) Posited that the Lotus Sutra (Mahayana scripture dating from the first century) was the only teaching which would lead to salvation. This text became the object of veneration.

Nihonshoki (nee-hohn-shoh-kee--Chronicle of Japan, C.E. 720) An early imperial Japanese chronicle, along Chinese lines, describing times of creation up to the late seventh century.

Nikayas (nee-KAH-yuh), texts which begin with "Thus have I heard..." are early sayings of Ananda, one of Buddha's disciples. They are the earliest forms of Buddhist scripture and part of the Pali canon.

Nirvana (nihr-VAH-nuh) Term difficult to translate, meaning something akin to unalloyed bliss, pure and simple; fully passed away, fully blown out or fully extinct

Noble Eightfold Path Right Views, or acceptance of the Buddha's teaching; Right Thought, or aspirations leading to purity and charity; Right Speech; Right Conduct; Right Livelihood; Right Effort, or avoidance of lapses into frailty; Right Mindfulness, or constant awareness of the truth of the doctrine; and Right Concentration, or spiritual exercise leading to an awakening

Noh drama (noh) Tragic drama. Full of style and imagery, proceeding at a slow pace. Lead characters wear wooden masks and every performer is male. Begun in the fourteenth century, there are now only about 250 plays performed.

Nominal In name only. Having the label of a religion but being very lax in practice of that religion

Nongovernment Organizations (NGOs) Groups active within a country who are allowed by the government, yet not supported by government structures. United Nations groups, humanitarian agencies and mission organizations are examples of NGOs.

Obon Festival (OOOH-bohn) Also called festival of dead, Japanese Buddhist belief that dead revisited the earth. Climax is Bon-Odori (Dance of Rejoicing), folk dances which comfort the souls of the dead by the light of paper lanterns often advocating terrorism and violence in the process

Ofuda (prayer strips) popular in some Japanese Buddhist practice

Oomoto (oor-moh-toh) New Japanese religion which stems from revelations received by an illiterate peasant woman Deguchi Nao. According to followers, Deguchi "acquired...healing and divinatory powers and recorded, in automatic writings" the teachings of the deity Ushitora. In the 1920s, Oomoto membership was in the millions. Suppressed by the government in the 1920s - 30s, it reorganized in 1945, though at a loss of its former popularity.

Opium Wars (1839-42) Britain/China trade conflict.

Britain monopolized opium import to China, becoming an increasing burden on the Chinese people. China banned British trade, prompting Britain to seize ports and force Treaty of Nanking, the first of the Unequal Treaties. China opened ports for British trade, paid retributions and seceded Hong Kong to British.

Pagan (pah-GAHN) Ancient Burmese city founded in the mid-ninth century. King Anawrahta expanded the city into an empire by conquering the Mons in southern Burma. Anawrahta introduced Theravada Buddhism while allowing Mon art and architecture to remain. The Pagan era was peaceful and economically powerful.

Pali (pah-lee) An Indo-Aryan language related to the ancient languages of India...used for Theravada Buddhist liturgical and scholarly purposes

Pali Canon Oldest collection of Buddhist texts, arranged into "Three Baskets"--discourse, discipline and commentary

Pancasila (pahn-cha-SEE-lah) Secularist Indonesian state ideology based on five principles, (1) belief in one God, (2) humanitarianism, (3) national unity, (4) democracy, and (5) social justice.

Panchen Lama (PAHN-shen LAHM-uh) Tibetan Buddhist abbot of Tibet's most powerful monastery, initially supportive of the Chinese authorities, later imprisoned for 15 years.

Paradise Heaven

Peace Operations An umbrella term that encompasses the following types of activities--those that diplomatically lead (preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace building) and other complementary, (predominately military), peacekeeping and peace-enforcement activities

Pentagon Papers Publication of classified Pentagon papers on the U.S. involvement in Vietnam was begun June 13 by the New York Times. In a 6-3 vote, the U.S. Supreme Court June 30 upheld the right of the Times and the Washington Post to publish the documents under the protection of the first amendment.

People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) The military forces of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (until 1976) and, after reunification, of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. During the Second Indochina War, PAVN bore the brunt of the fighting against the United States military forces in Vietnam, but was consistently able to recoup its losses and infiltrate units by means of the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Perceptions Our mental grasp of others and their ideas of us

Phi (pee) Spirits, common in Thailand, thought to have power over human beings. The category includes spirits believed to have a permanent existence and others that are reincarnations of deceased human beings.

Pidgin (PIJ-ahn): National language of Papua New Guinea, developed over generations by people of separate tongues.

Ping-Pong diplomacy Term applied to U.S./Chinese relations of the 1970s, stemming from invitation for US team to participate in China in 1971. Eventually led to President Nixon's visit and signing of Shanghai Communiqué.

Political expediency Those who use any means available to accomplish their political ends. Some leaders use Islam, Buddhism or Christianity in a pragmatic sense--only to bring about their intended political objectives.

Politicized Islam Another term for fanatical extremist practice. Adherents use their religious belief to bring about political ends--often with violent means.

Polychronic time Tending to be involved in many things at once. Describes those who live in many non-European countries of the world

Prejudice Rigid, negative attitudes based on faulty, preconceived, inflexible generalizations, which numb our ability to understand others. Prejudice too readily violates objective standards of fairness, justice and impartiality.

Progressive Islamic positions regarding women Muslims who work for full women's legal and religious rights. The "Sisters of Islam" is one such movement within Islam. Members advocate laws against domestic violence and Qur'an interpretations formulated by women theologians.

Proverbs Short, pithy saying commonplace in most every culture

Pure Land Mahayana Buddhist practice. The most popular form of Buddhism in the world, identifies a goal for rebirth, the land of bliss (Pure Land or Western Paradise)

Pyongyang Largest North Korean City, once an important religious center.

Qur'an (QOOR-ahn) Holy Book of Islam, revealed by God to the prophet Muhammad.

Quietist Individuals and groups who advocate peaceful, non-violent, quiet change in their society.

Ramadan (RAH-mah-dahn) A holy month of fasting wherein Muslims, who are physically able, do not eat or drink from the first sign of dawn until sunset.

Ramakien (rah-mah-kee-ehn) Thai version of the Indian epic *Ramayana*. Originally oral tradition, first written in 1797 by King Rama I. Poem is 3,000 pages long providing subject matter for the other arts including drama, painting, and sculpture.

Ramayana (rah mah YAH nuh) Great Epic describing the rule of Rama or God's kingdom on earth

Ramkhamhaeng inscription (rahm-kahm-hayng) Thai alphabet created by King Ramkhamhaeng the Great in 1283. King invented marks to indicate tone and based form of letters on patterns from the Mon and Khmer alphabets. Ramkhamhaeng derived 44 consonants, 32 vowels, and five tonal diacritical marks.

Rat's Wedding Day Some Chinese households observe this day to appease rodent household visitors.

Reiyukai (rei-yoo-kai) This new Japanese religion developed in the 1920s in Tokyo. Eventually, Kotaini Kimi, the charismatic wife of one of the founders, became a main proponent of the new religion.

Relics Items (tooth, finger bone) thought to originate from the historical Buddha. These items become objects of great veneration.

Religious nationalism A less emotionally charged term for fundamentalist movements who use religion as their base. The term describes those who apply their religion to promote national/political ends.

Religious terrorism Violence done in the name of strongly held belief or violence which uses religion as a pretext for its justification

Reminders Qur'an quotes in architecture and on household objects, calls to prayer, beautiful mosques and minarets, designed to instill right practice within Muslims.

Revivalists Those take their religion seriously, advocating a devout return to the piety and practice of their beliefs.

Rinzai Zen (rin-sah-nee) Most likely came from Eisai (ay-ee-sah-ee--1141-1215.) Sudden enlightenment within everyday life became possible.

Rissho Koseikai (ri-shor kor-say-kai) In 1938, this new Japanese religion seceded from Reiyukai. Comprised of some 2 million members, it takes its name from Nichiren's treatise of 1260 advocating "true Buddhism to establish peace in Japan..."

Rizal Day (RHEE-zahl) National Philippine holiday remembering execution of national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, killed in 1896. Dr. Rizal denounced corrupt leadership of Spanish friars, founding a nonviolent reform movement in 1892.

Sakyamuni refers to Buddha's clan (his being a "sage of the Sakya clan").

Salat (shul-LAH--prayers) Five times each day, Muslims pray in Arabic. Salat consists mainly of verses from the Qur'an, praises to God, and requests for guidance. Adherents bow toward the Kaabah in Mecca when praying.

Samguk (SAM-guhk) Seven-hundred year historical period known as the Samguk or "Three Kingdoms." Though debated, the Paekche, Koguryo, and Silla kingdoms were established in 18, 37, and 57 B.C.E. respectively. Period ended in C.E. 668, when Silla conquered the other two kingdoms to form the Unified Silla Kingdom. The Unified Silla period is considered the Golden Age of Korean history and is used to support unification efforts today.

Sammitsu Japanese term meaning enlightenment

Samsara (sahm-SAH-ruh) Term, expressing concepts of "flow" and "run-around", which describes humankind's sense of despair at the passing nature of events within this life. In this world of rebirth, what is achieved in the course of one's life can easily become lost. This sense of loss happens not once but endlessly. The more one becomes conscious, the more one feels the frustrations and limitations of life.

Sangha (SHANG huh) Specialists in the spiritual life. These monks and nuns, laymen and laywomen, follow rules of the codified monastic discipline (Vinaya).

- Sangmin** (SAHNG-mihn) The commoners, or sangmin, composed about 75 percent of the total population. These farmers, craftsmen, and merchants alone bore the burden of taxation and were subject to military conscription. Farmers had higher prestige than merchants, but lived a hard life.
- Santri** (sahn-TREE) Persons who are consciously and exclusively Muslim, who may remove themselves from the secular world so great is their Muslim devotion.
- Sarawi, Huda** (hoo-DAH sah-RAH-wee) One of Egypt's first progressive women. In 1923, she threw her veil into the Mediterranean. Eventually, Sarawi founded the Egyptian Feminist Union.
- Sati** (SUH-tee) Traditional Hindu practice, now outlawed, where widows would burn themselves on their husbands' funeral pyres.
- Sawm** (SOO-uhm--fasting) During the month of Ramadan, thanksgiving is expressed, discipline shown, and communal solidarity and reconciliation affirmed. Practitioners abstain from food, smoking, sex and drink from dawn to sunset.
- Scar Literature** Literary movement named for short story collection Scars (1978) by Liu Xinghua (lee-oo sheeng-hooah). Writings despair disasters of cultural revolution and express importance of families, love and freedom.
- Self-cultivation** Confucian ideal of a healthy body, mind-and-heart alert, pure soul and brilliant spirit are seen as good for their own sake.
- Sending the Winter Dress** Paper replica garments are sent to deceased Chinese relatives. Gift packages first decorate the home, then are taken to the burial location for burning.

- Seppuku** (SEP-puh-koo) Form of ritual suicide caused by self-disembowelment due to the belief of the soul being in the midsection. Begun in the eleventh century and common until the last century, seppuku was initiated as capital punishment, to avoid capture, to follow a deceased lord in death, or to protest the orders of superiors.
- Shahada** (sha-HAHD-ah--witnessing) This first pillar of Islam is the essential creed of Muslim belief. It is repeatedly invoked as part of daily prayer. The shahada states: 'There is no god but God and Muhammad is the messenger of God.'
- Shamans** (SHAH-men; SHAY-men) Popular religious healers and diviners. They bring a local community into relationship with the supernatural. Often using objects seen in dreams--stones, bones, animal skins or feathers--shamans incorporate such items into a rite of dramatic ritual and song.
- Shanghai Communiqué** signed in 1972 after President Nixon met with Premiere Zhou Enlai (joh uhn-li). First step to more friendly relations between China and the U.S. Stated there was only one China which included Taiwan.
- Sharia** (sha REE ah) The religious law of Islam. Sharia can vary from state to state and within various Muslim movements. Divine law in its totality...maps the road men and women are to follow in this life
- Shen** (shen) Signifies spirituality. Crucial Shen concerns are the "heavenly aspect of the soul" and its development (Taoist term).
- Shen-hui** (Shen-hway, 668-760) A Buddhist monk who became the seventh patriarch, promoting the Ch'an school
- Shia** (SHEE-uh) Followers who believe Muhammad specified that his cousin and son-in-law Ali would be his successor. The charisma of Muhammad passed on in direct blood lineage through a family dynasty. Religious and political authority rests in imams alone.

Shingdon (shin-gohn) An early Japanese Buddhist practice founded by Kukai (koo-kah-ee--774-835) encouraging a fusion of Kami and Buddhist practice.

Shinran (shin-rahn, 1173-1262) Practitioner of the True Pure Land school who saw the compassionate Amitabha Buddha as a savior figure, carrying awakened ones to the Pure Land

Shintoism (shin-toh--way of the kami [kah-mee--divinities, divine presence]) Japanese traditional belief system which emerged gradually out of myths, beliefs and rituals of prehistoric Japan.

Shogun (shoh-guhn) Imperial military title assumed by leaders of military governments in the Tokugawa period

Siddhartha Gautama (sid-HAHR-tah GOW-tuh-muh, 566 - 486 B.C.) Historical figure known as the first Buddha. Gautama is his family name (as "Smith" in John Smith), while Siddhartha is his personal name (as "Mary" in Mary Smith.)

Sihanouk, Prince Norodom (SEE-ah-nook, nohr-OH-dahm, 1922-) Appointed king of Cambodia in 1941. In 1955, Sihanouk was finally able to oust the French forming the Sangkum Reastr Niyum (People's Socialist Community). Sihanouk attempted to keep peace in Cambodia and even stated a position of neutrality during the Vietnam War. The United States, in 1970, supported a right-wing revolt to replace Sihanouk. He remained head of a government-in-exile until returning in 1975 to be placed under arrest until 1979. In exile, Sihanouk led the government once again and in 1991 negotiated a treaty to end civil war. After elections in 1993, crowned king of the constitutional monarchy in the U.N. protectorate of Cambodia. Currently resides in exile in Beijing.

Silk Road Trade route used to connect ancient China to the West. Stretched some 5,350 miles to the Mediterranean, being only land connection for over 1,000 years. Buddhism and Islam spread by means of this road.

Silla Kingdom The Silla united Korea in 668, remaining in power until C.E. 918. Pulguksa Temple (C.E. 780) and Sokkuram Grotto, which contains a giant granite Buddha, are considered icons of Silla achievement in art, religion, and government. The hangul phonetic alphabet was invented in the mid-1400s by King Sejong. Though Chinese was still the prominent language, hangul allowed for the possibility of Korean literature.

Singapore Muslim Religious Council: Organization which oversees Islamic and Malay affairs in Singapore.

Soka Gakkai (soh-ka gak-kai) "Value creation society" Makiguchi Tsunesaburo (1871-1944) founded this new Japanese religion in 1928. Originally designed as an educational society, it is now Japan's largest new religious movement.

Solar calendar: Using the sun to calculate the days marking a given calendar year

Soto Zen (soh-toh) Adheres to the teachings of Dogen (doh-gen--1200-1253), a Japanese religious figure who traveled to China, received enlightenment, and came back to Japan to spread his views. Many consider Dogen a Bodhisattva. Distinct Soto Zen thought advocates seated meditation, gradual enlightenment, simple funeral rights and the practice wherein Zen temples became places of earnest study of Chinese classics and neo-Confucian thought.

Stereotypes Rigid biases applied to all peoples of a particular group--thus simplifying and demeaning others. Perceptions become immune to logic and experience. A stereotyped template skews all incoming information. Depersonalization and dehumanization result. Individuals become caricatured, distorted, and seen too often only in a negative light.

Stilwell, Joseph W. American General who oversaw American/Allied operations in the China/Burma/India theater during much of World War II.

Struggle Dual sided tactic employed by General Giap of the North Vietnamese forces. Struggle involved both political (politics with guns) and military (violence and action) means.

Sudras (SOO drahs) Serfs accorded service positions, being members of the lowest class

Sufi (SOO-fee) Within both Sunni and Shia circles there are branches of mystical/spiritual intensity. This school of thought defines the Sufi mystic orientation. "Like the heart of the body of Islam--invisible from the outside but giving nourishment to the whole organism," so the pietism of this school exerts an influence on all Islam.

Suharto (soo-HAHR-toh) Indonesian general and leader first elected to office in 1968.

Sultan Secular and a religious leader of Moros whose authority was sanctioned by the Quran.

Sumo wrestling (soo-MOOOH) National sport begun 2000 years ago, perfected in the 17th century. Wrestlers wear only a mawashi and try to force on another out of a ring. Wrestlers are ranked on a scale called the banzuke and are usually chosen from poor families to be raised into the higher sumo class. Weight classes vary from 250-500 pounds.

Sun Yat-sen (soon yaht-suhn, 1866-1925) Chinese revolutionary and leader, receiving education in Hawaii, and returning to Hong Kong after the Chinese defeat in the Sino-Japanese War. Gathering support for his causes, in 1905 he released three principles to the Chinese people--nationalism, democracy and livelihood. In 1911, he led a successful revolution but was not given head office. Defeated in 1916, he allied with the communists in 1923 to free China from the Japanese. Sun died of cancer in 1925.

Sun-tzu (SWUN dyuh) A Chinese classic on military tactics and strategy, dating from the era 400-320 B.C. The Sun-tzu shows how superior mental attitudes can effect military/political change. Emphasis is on unsettling the enemy's mind and upsetting his plans.

Sunna (SOON-nuh) Prophet Muhammad's practice and way of life

Sunni (SOON-nee) Elders who saw Muhammad's successor as chosen by the community of those who follow the ethical/religious Muslim path. Authority rests in the community, guided by ulama consensus and Islamic law.

Sura (SOO-ruh) A chapter of the Qur'an.

Sutras (SOO-trahs) Discourses or scriptures. Part of the Three Baskets an early form of Buddhist scripture

Syncretistic To combine differing, even contradictory aspects of faith and practice

Taliban (tahl-ee-BAHN) Militant Islamist student youth movement in Afghanistan which currently rules 70 percent of the country.

Tama (tah-mah) Define the animating spirits of kami, people or even a place.

Tantra (THUN-truh) Buddhist Mahayana practice followed by

Tao-te ching (dow-duh jing--Book of the Way and Its Power) is the earliest rendering of Taoist thought. Also called the Lao-tzu (lou dyuh, after its commonly understood author), the Tao-te Ching is the most widely translated Chinese classic.

Tendai (tayn-dah-ee) An early Japanese Buddhsit practice founded by **Saicho** (sah-ee-choh--767-822)

Tenrikyo (ten-ri-kyor) "Religion of heavenly truth"
Japanese religionist Nakayama Miki (1798-1887), a faith healer, founded this movement after she was possessed by a spirit identified as the creator of humankind. Nakayama's revelations form the basis of the Tenrikyo creed. Adherents are encouraged to live cheerful lives of service for others while purifying themselves of disharmonious bad thoughts.

Terra-Cotta Warriors 8000 figures of men, horses and chariots discovered in 1974 in the mausoleum of the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC). Warriors are nearly six feet tall, in battle formation. Considered one of this centuries greatest archeological discoveries.

Tet Vietnamese New Year, an abbreviation for Tet Nguyen Dan, "first day." Start of new year with family reunions, respect given departed ancestors, payment of debts.

Tet Offensive North Vietnamese Army attack in 1968 which focused on Vietnamese cities throughout the country. This event, conducted during the Vietnamese New Year, proved a strategic turning point in the war.

Thanh-Minh (tang ming) Similar to U.S. Memorial Day, Thanh-Minh day honors the dead. Flowers, food, incense and other offerings brought by family members to the graves of departed relatives.

Thant, U (1909-1974) Third secretary-general of the United Nations from 1962-1972.

Theravada (thai-ruh-VAH-duh) The most conservative, traditional school of Buddhism. Also called the southern social movement, this tradition goes back to one of the original 18 schools--the tradition of the elders.

Third Wave Confucian movement which seeks to explain the current economic revival in East Asia in terms of application of Confucian principles to the post-modern world. This school of thought seeks to outmaneuver competitors, based on superior self-knowledge and knowledge of others.

Three Treasures To avoid pain, Buddhist adherents take refuge in the Three Treasures (Three Jewels), (1) the Buddha, (2) Dharma (the law, truth or doctrine), and (3) the Sangha.

Threefold Training Classifies practices of the Eightfold Path under headings of morality, wisdom and concentration

Tiananmen Square (tee-ahn-ahn-mehn, "Gate of Heavenly Peace") Another name for Beijing square, center of many 20th century political movements. Largest public square in the world, covering some 100 acres. Flanked by Great Hall of the People (seat of National People's Congress), Museum of Chinese History and Revolution, and Mao Zedong Memorial Hall (1977).

Tod Kathin (tahd kah-teehn) Robe offering month marking the end of the Buddhist Lent. Begins the pilgrimage season wherein adherents go to temples and bring food and gifts (new robes) to monks.

Traditional Islamic views of the woman's position While spiritually equal, women are barred from leadership positions outside the home. Their sphere of influence, and grounds for respect, stem from the position taken within the home and family.

Transmigration More precise term than reincarnation. It sees the birth of the soul in successive life forms. Karma directly ties into this series of rebirths.

Tripataka (Three Baskets) Buddhist texts composed of (1) **Sutras** (SOO-trahs--discourses, scriptures), (2) **Vinaya** (VI-nuh-yuh, discipline for the Sangha) and (3) **Abhidharma** (uh-bee-DAHR-muh, commentary or doctrine.)

Tsagaan Sar (Lunar New Year) Mongolian celebration of "white month," marking an important time for traditional family gatherings.

Tudong(too-DONG) Traditional head covering worn by many Brunei Muslim women.
Tungsing Lake to protest corruption in the royal court.

Ujigami [oo-jee-gah-mee--the kami from which Japanese clans were thought to have descended, many being guardians of local areas.

Umma (OOM-muh) Peoplehood--the majesty and mystique of being a part of the Muslim community

Unequal Treaties Series of treaties China signed with Western powers under threat of force. Treaty of Nanking (1842); Treaty of Tianjin (1858) and Peking Convention (1860) served to cause demoralization and underlying resentment within China's leaders.

Unification Church (T'ongilgyo) Group founded in 1954 by Reverend Sun Myong Moon (Mun Son-myong), is the most famous Korean new religion. During its period of rigorous expansion during the 1970s, the Unification Church had several hundred thousand members in South Korea and Japan and a substantial (although generally overestimated) number of members in North America and Western Europe.

Upanishads (oo-PAH-ni-shuhdz) Interpretations of the Vedas, beginning with an emphasis on proper performance of sacrificial ritual and ending with mystical identities of the individual soul (atman) with the universal spirit (brahmin) are the focus of the Upanishads.

Urabon (oohr-ah-bohn, [Oban]) Buddhist religious holiday derived from a Sanskrit word meaning "All Saints' Day." Grave sites are cleaned, decorated and laden with offerings. Proceedings prepare for the return of dead spirits to the homes where they were born. On the last day, farewell fires are set to send the spirits away.

Usury (YOO zhuh-ree) Lending money at excessively high interest

Vacanas Texts which describe poems of personal devotion to a god--essential in following the bhakti path

Vaisyas (VIS yahs) Individuals who are merchants, control cash, agricultural produce and livestock. Vaisyas require four years of study.

Vajrayana (vuhj-ruh-YAH-nuh) Tantric literature, contrasting masculine diamond/sword/thunderbolt images with feminine lotus flower depictions. Physical, philosophical, ironic, sexual, meditational and virtuous interpretations--all can apply to tantras.

Varna (VAHRN-ah) Social class

Varnashramadharma (vahrn-AHSH-rah-muh-DHAR-muh) The path to liberation which describes the karma yoga model

Vedas (VAY-duhs) These early Sanskrit texts were primarily hymns composed between 1200 - 900 B.C. They are seen as a verbal form of ultimate reality. The Brahmin group embodies and interprets this reality

Verses of the sword Two verses of the Qur'an which describe the obligatory nature of fighting (under certain conditions) within Islam

Viet Cong Contraction of the term Viet Nam Cong San (Vietnamese communists), the name applied by the governments of the United States and South Vietnam to the communist insurgents in rebellion against the latter government, beginning around 1957.

Viet Minh (vee-eht MIHN) Common name given to the Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Minh Hoi (Vietnamese Independence League) founded by the Indochinese Communist Party (ICP) in 1941 under Ho Chi Minh. The Viet Minh was determined to free Vietnam of all foreigners and later reunite the split nation.

Vietnamization Process of handing over the defense of South Vietnam to the Vietnamese themselves. It entailed three overlapping phases: redeployment of American forces and the assumption of their combat role by the South Vietnamese; improvement of ARVN's combat and support capabilities, especially firepower and mobility; and replacement of the Military Assistance Command by an American advisory group.

Vinaya (VI-nuh-yuh) Discipline texts for the Sangha. Part of the Three Baskets, an early form of Buddhist texts

Wang Che (wahng-jeh, 1112-1170) Founder of the northern Ch'uan-chen (chwahn-jen, complete perfection) Taoist school. The early Ch'uan Chen masters lived unique lives. Once, Wag Che slept on ice; another time, he meditated in a hole for a couple of years. An austere, simple life was the pattern to follow. Monasticism, asceticism, and self-cultivation (realizing the "true nature" in the mind) are the defining characteristics of the movement.

Wang Yang-ming (wahng yahng-ming, 1472-1529) A major neo-Confucianist who established the School of Mind. Innate knowledge, found within the mind, is the basis on which to view humanity, rather than pursuing external patterns.

Waso Festival of Lights. Homes are lit with paper lanterns, all-night weaving contests take place. Young unmarried women weave robes, and at dawn offer them to images of the Buddha at the pagoda.

Wat Buddhist church/temple/monastery, one of the two focal points of village life (the other is the school). The wat provides a symbol of village identity as well as a location for ceremonies and festivals. Prior to the establishment of secular schools, village boys received basic education from monks at the wat. Nearly every lowland village has a wat, and some have two.

Wen refers to the "arts of peace"--music, art, poetry, the aesthetic and spiritual aptitudes. The mark of a cultured person is the knowledge and appreciation of culture, breeding, and grace.

Westernization European and American values which often accompany modernization practices. Often the term is seen in a negative light by many Middle East Muslims.

Wisdom (Prajna, PRAHJ-nah) Threefold Training classification which groups together Right Views and Right Thought (intention) and Right Concentration

Woman's economic position within Islam The Qur'an guarantees property, inheritance, and monetary rights to women, whether single or married. In practice, these rights are often percentages less than those given their male counterparts.

Wu-wei (woo-way) This term describes the Taoist ethical ideal. One follows the natural course of things (The Tao), going with the flow and allowing others to do so as well

Yangban (YUHNG-bahn) In the strictest sense of the term, yangban referred to government officials or officeholders who had passed the civil service examinations that tested knowledge of the Confucian classics and their neo-Confucian interpreters. They were the Korean counterparts of the scholar-officials, or mandarins, of imperial China.

Yi dynasty (yee) The Yi or Choson dynasty (1392-1910) was founded by General Yi Song-gye. Yi ruled under the name Yi T'aejo and moved the capitol to Hanyang, the present day Seoul. Marked the start of Korean Buddhism, ceramic arts and civil service exam. In 1392, General Yi Song-gye allied with the Mongols to end the Koryo dynasty and begin the last dynasty (Yi) in Korean history.

Yoga (YOH-guh) Acts of meditation, concentration and asceticism, as well as bodily exercises involving the control of breath and other movements, enabling adherents to achieve closeness with Japanese deities.

Yue Fei (yoo-uh fay, 1101-1141 AD) Chinese general during the Song Dynasty, resisting the Jin invaders in 1126. Desiring to continue the war, Yue made court enemies, eventually being killed during a court intrigue. Legend of Yue is the subject of many artistic works.

Zakat (ZA-kat)--almsgiving The faithful demonstrate tangible worship by giving "a kind of loan to God" of from two to ten percent of one's income, payable at year's end. Charitable causes receive support in more spontaneous manners, as needs arise.

Zen Ch'an (chahn, Japanese Zen) school of Buddhist thought and practice. Ch'an nevertheless advocates a sudden, speedy, unmediated enlightenment. The innate Buddha nature within allows all to have the potential to achieve this awakening.